THE DECLERATION OF OVVEN O NEILL

PVBLISHED IN THE HEAD OF THAT PARTE OF THE VLSTER ARMY ADHERING TO HIM, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT HONORABLE

THE SVPREAME COVNCELL

OF THE

CONFEDERAT CATHOLICKS

OF

IRELAND

THEIR ANSWER THEREVNTO.

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KILKENNY 1648.

By Eugenius O Neill Generall for the Confederat Catholicks of Ireland of the Vlster forces, and by the reſt of the Commanders of the ſame Forces.

VVEE might be held prodigall of our honour, and giue occaſion of ſuſpition of our loyalty to our Soueraigne, if in the middeſt of the multitude of Calumnies and impoſtures that are belched forth againſt vs, wee should neglect to appoligize for our owne integrity: wee haue by free and full conſent, without any reluctancy, in the view of the world, taken the oath of Aſſociation appointed by vniverſall vote to be taken by all the Confederat Catholickes of *Ireland*; wherein wee manifeſt our Religion towards God, and ſecure our loyalty towards our Soveraigne. This oath wee haue as frequently and as freely iterated, as any the reſt of our fellow Confederats in this Kingdom: wee haue alſo avowed that ſolemne proteſtation made by the *Catholicke Cleargie* of the ſame Confederacy, proteſting to *giue unto Ceſar what is due to Ceſar, and vnto God, what is due to God.* As wee neuer reſolue to violat this oath and proteſtation, ſo doe wee reſolue neuer to adhere to any that haue or shall indeuour to

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ſuppreſſe the one or the other; ſuch as boaſt moſt of loyalty, but are moſt conſcious of disloalty, have by this Ceſſation giuen vnto the Kings ſworne enemy two intire Countyes in *Mounſter*, which were in the poſſeſſion of the Confederat Catholickes, without receiuing any aſſurance either of his loyalty, or of reſtitution of the ſame Counties after expiration of the Ceſſation. They haue (as if they were Lords Paramount of the ſubiects liuings) diſpoſed as well of the ſpiritualty as temporalty, without the ſubiects conſent, and that, to the vſe and maintenance of the Kings enemyes. Kilkeny and other quarters belonging to the Confederat Catholiques, they haue actually deliuered ouer vnto that great perſonage, whom in their ſoules they know to be wholy diſpoſed to betray the Kingdom to the *Parliament*: vnto this great perſonage thy ſtill adhere, notwithſtanding thoſe horrid treaſons cõmitted in deliuering ouer vnto the *Parliament* the Caſtle of *Dublin*, *Drogheda*, *Trim*, *Dundalke*, and all other gariſons remaining in his quarters; for him all induſtry and arte is vſed to procure vaſt ſumes of mony, euen in the quarters of the Confederat Catholiques by way of loane,

mortgage, and otherwiſe, as the 11. and 12. articles of the vnwarrantable Ceſſation doe aboundantly inſinuat, yet theſe men would needes be held loyall ſubiects, and all others who oppoſe their ſiniſter practiſes (though thereunto bound by oath) muſt be held disloyall. If we haue as freely and as often, as any other of our fellow-Catholicks bound our ſelues with ligatures of loyalty, why are wee ſuſpected more then others of disloyalty? If wee may not be charged with any enormous crimes of disloyalty as thoſe others are, who would appeare moſt loyall? why are they entertained as loyall; and wee ſuſpected as disloyal? Wee defie the whole world to charge vs vith the leaſt act of disloyalty committed ſince theſe Commotions; vnleſſe the depraued iudgement of the disloyall, (to cloake the turpitude of their owne crimes) will cenſure it disloyalty in vs to defend with Chriſtian reſolution the *Freedom of our Religion* the *prerogatiues of our Soueraigne*, and *libertie of our free-borne* Nation, whereunto by oath wee are obliged Vnto the perfect obſeruance of this oath and proteſtation, the See Apoſtolicke by its Apoſtolicall miſſiues frequently exhorted vs and to ſecond our ende-

uors therein, hath ſent vnto the Catholick Confederats frequent ſubſidies; ſo farre is it from truth, that either his Holynes or wee are againſt the allegiance due by ſubiects vnto their Soueraigne: others who looke more vpon ſtate-pollicy then Religion, and continue no longer in their allegiance, then the condition of the time will permit them, haue no longer adhered to their Soueraigne then while they were neceſſitated; neceſſity being taken away, they haue ſided with the Kings enemies (*the Parliament*) againſt their Soueraigne; being againe neceſſitated they againe diſſemble to be for their Soueraigne. *Væ duplici corde.* Vnto ſuch wee may not [vnleſſe wee wilfully violat our oath] adhere, without ſome aſſurance of their loyalty, and engagement not to preiudice the Catholicke faith, for which two points the late Ceſſation, made by a malignant party of the Supreame Councell, againſt the reſolution of a conſiderable partie of the ſame Councell, and of the whole *Clergie*, hath not ſo well prouided as wee could wiſh, who for their owne miſcheeuious ends, indeauour to ſet forward the ſame Ceſſation by blemishing our integrity, & by that meanes to draw vpon vs the indi-

gnation of all ſuch as either ſeemingly or really are for his Maieſtie; for not being capable to moue the heauens to ſecond their deſignes, they make recourſe to *Acharon*. Vnto theſe that truly and really adhere to his Majeſtie (without preiudicing our Religion) wee doe, and euer ſhall adhere; vnto others who onely counterfait ſuch adherence, to avoid the forces of the Confederat Catholiques, wee may not adhere: And vpon this reſolution, not onely wee, but all the Confederat Catholickes, together with thoſe corporat Townes, that Chriſtianlike reſolue to obſerue theſe two branches of their oath, deny to yeeld obedience to ſuch an vnwarrantable and preiudiciall Ceſſation: Wherefore our Armes are taken to defend our ſelues as well againſt thoſe that without any prouocation on our parte, haue intollerably iniured vs, and thoſe diſtreſſed exiled Catholiques that depend vpon vs, as againſt all others that haue actually declared themſelues againſt his Maieſtie, & are knowne to continue ſtill really in that reſolution; beſeeching the Lord of hoſtes [who penetrats the ſecrets of our hearts] neuer to bleſſe our deſignes, longer then wee intend truly and vnfaindly [euen without

reſpect to priuat ends] to obſerue that Commaund of our Lord *Ieſus. Giue vnto Cæſar what is due to Cæſar, and to God what is due to God.* For accomplishing whereof, wee coniure all the *Confederat Catholiques*, together with all thoſe faithfull, ſubiects of what Religion ſoeuer, that vnfainedly adhere to his Maieſtie, to ioyne with vs againſt all Parliamentary forces and all factioniſts, who (for their owne ends) comply with them, to the violation of their oath, preiudice of of our Soueraigne, and ruine of this diſtreſſed Nation.

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Owen ô Neill, Hugo ô Neill, Rory Mc Guier, Brian ô Neill, Daniel Magneiſſe, Liſagh ô More, Con ô Neill, Arthur Magneiſſe, Phillip ô Rely, Arthur Fox, Phelim ô Neil, Miles Swine, Owen ô Dogherty, I. Mc Donnell,

BY THE

SVPREAME COVNCELL

OF THE

CONFEDERAT CATHOLIKS

OF

IRELAND

FOR AS MVCH as by a late Declaration published the Eleuenth of the laſt Iune in the head of that partie of the *Vlſter Army* adhering unto Generall *Owen ô Neill*, Wee find he hath not onely Caſt off that obedience, which by the *Oath* of Aſſociation ſolemnly taken by him, hee was obliged to render unto our orders and Commaunds, but that hee both maliciously and falsly Charg the Government eſtabliſhed by the Confederat Catholicks with crimes ſo tranſcendent, and ſo improbable, as malice onely could invent, and rancour dictat. And therfore giving over to hope that hee intends at any time

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to ſubiect himſelfe to authority, or obſerue the mutuall bond of vnion with the Confederats, wee are enforced, for vindication of our honnours, and diſabuſing of thoſe few gentlemē, whom hee hath inueigled with ſpecious pretences, to be the footſtoole of his ambition. [While a declaration of his proceedings is in preparation] to giue ſome light of his deportment: Yet firſt wee will cleane the entrance thereunto, from that corrupt ſtuffe, which hee ſpatters againſt vs. He that makes rapine a trade, and hath fill'd each corner of the Kingdome with execrations againſt him ſaies; *we* [whom this innocent man would involue vnder, the tytle and attribute of diſloyall] *haue diſpoſed of the ſpirituality and temporalty without the conſent of the ſubiects and giuen away entyer Counties to the vſe and maintenance of the Kings enemies, without aſſurance either of their loyalty, or reſtitution of ſuch Counties, at the end of the Ceſſation.*

This is ſo evident an vntruth, that it is manifeſt we haue freed the Counties of Tipperary and Limerick from paying contribution vnto him, and aſſigned noe County for quarter vnto him, which at the tyme of the makeing of that Ceſſation was not actually contribut-

ing vnto him: And the Prouinciall *Assẽbly* of Mounſter, who where neereſt cõcearned in the trãſactiõ of that Ceſſatiõ, will beare vs witneſſ, nothĩg was dõ in ſettĩg forth the quarters, without their approbation, & at their ſuite, & with the Concurrence of three and twenty votes of the Councell, three onely of the number then met, diſſenting; *But this is giuen to the Kings enemies*. Whence comes this ecxeeding tenderneſs of his Maieſties intreſt, wee knowe not, or wherefore should the Lord Baron of *Inchiquyn* (now publickely declarĩg for his Maieſtie) be eſteemed his ſworne enemie, or what impediment should his being ſuch, now bring with it, which was not ſeen unto the parties now averſe to this Ceſſation, who [before the Lord of Inchiquine his ſaid declaration] deſired a Ceſſation with him? or what ſuddaine ſcruple prickes the conſcience of Gennerall Neill, who by frequent ſollicitations hath endeuoured to haue a ceſſation of Armes with an other party in this Kingdome, oppoſing the Confederat Catholickes, and not appearing for his Majeſtie? And concearning reſtitution to be made at the end of the ceſſation: The inhabitants are not to be diſpoſeſſed, nor their caſtles to be mannd by the Lord of Inchiquine, as appeares

peares by the Articles: And what other assurance then publick faith mutually giuen, could haue beene expected in such a transaction? The next hee points at, and tearmes *a great Parsonadge*, hee so confounds betweene the *Marques of Ormond*, and the Lord *Barron of Inchiquine*, *the surrender of the Castle of Dublin*, *Drogheda*, *Trim &c. and the* 11 *and* 12 *Article of the Cessation*, that to satisfie the world of our conceptions of him, we wil extend that parsonadge to both; and as we see no ground wherfore either of them should be disposed to deliuer over the Kingdome to the Parliament, soe we protest, had we knowen them guiltie of any such intentions, wee would not only, from our sowles, loath such perfidy, but make it publick to the world, and (in discharge of our duty) imploy the authority & power entrusted with vs, to preuent such horrid machinations. How malitious an vntruth it is to accuse vs, *with Arte, and industry to procure vast sumes of money by way of lone or mortgage for this great Parsonadge*, will appeare to all men that see the Reuenues of both their estates, conuerted by vs to the publick vse: And what indifferent, vninteressed Reader, can force such a cõstruction vpon the 11 and 12 Article of the Cessation? how can

the performance of thoſe reiterated oathes, (which hee acknowledges hi ſelfe to haue ſworne] be boaſted of, when hee oppoſes in Armes a Ceſſation concluded by vs, the Supreame Councell of the Confederat Catholickes with the Lord Barron of Inchiquin, and enioyned by our orders to be obſerued? What is this, other then a violation of his faith, & a deluding of the Allſeeing wittneſs, in whoſe preſence hee ſwore the oath of Aſſociation? He proceeds further, and declares, *that neither his Holineſs, nor hee, are againſt the allegiance due by ſubiects vnto their ſoueraigne*. Wee knowe his Holineſs pious intentions towards vs, and the zeale where with hee recommends vnto vs, our obedience to our naturall King; and Ireland by this day had found [to its great aduantage) the effects of his bounty and aids, but that they are profuſely ſpent, to ſet vp an arbitrary and tyrannicall Gouerment, and to diſtract the Nation. But Gennerall Neill hath not giuen occaſion, wherefore wee should beleeue his ſingle aſſeueration of his loyalty, when his actions do demonſtrat the contrary. From this height and very diſportion'd fellowshipp, hee falls to the Ceſſation, and giues the tytle of a *malignant party to the ſupreame Councell of the confederat Catholickes*,

tholickes, whereof at leaſt ſeauen reſidents (being the number appointed by the Aſſembly) have concurred in all the paſſages of that tranſaction; and to preſs this further, *he inuolues the whole Cleargie in the quarrell*, when he, and all the Nation knowes, that many Prelats of deepe Iudgment, great learning, and exemplar life, and many of the beſt diuines in the Kingdome, do iuſtifie that Ceſſation to be Conſcionable; and labour [as true Patriotts] to diuert the eminent ruine, to which he ſtriues to expoſe the Nation. And tis obſervable *how he extends his partie to the Townes Corporat and Confederat Catholickes*; when tis evident, that no Cittie, nor Towne Corporat nor any of the Confederats, adheres vnto him, but thoſe few, ſeene now in Armes with him. For a Concluſiõ, *hee Coniures all men, of what Religion ſoever, vnfainedly adhering to his Maieſties, to ioyne with him.* By this we find tenets not allowed to vs by the Lord Nuncio, may be diſpenced with, in him; yet we doe beleue, were there noe other reaſons to diuert his Maieſties Proteſtant ſubiects, from being of a party with Gennerall Neill, they would be loath to make him Iudge of their vnfained intentions to ſerue his Ma-

ieſtie, who thinkes not the Parliaments proſcribing, and voting the Lord of Inchiquine a traytor, a ſufficient teſtimony of the diſtance betweene him and the Parliament.

Thus hauing run through the particulars of this his Declaration, and raked vp ſome ſtuffe out of this indigeſted heape of malice, fit to be anſwered, (laying aſide the reſt as the froth of a virulent penn, and commonplaces of railing) we offer to the Reader, theſe heads, as the Index of a larger volumne. Firſt the unwarranted power hee did aſſume unto himſelfe over the banished Gentlemen of *Vlſter*, and their Creaghts: His giving Patents to Collonels, and Captaines; and raiſing forces of his owne authoritie promiſcuously, in all parts of the Kingdome, contrary to the acts of ſeverall Aſſemblies, and the Orders of the Councell, which he was ſworne to obey: His harrazing the countrey with forces ſo gathered, and bringing the people to a condition of ſtarving: His willfull omiſſion of making uſe of the victorie at *Benburbe*, notwithſtanding the Councels commaund upon him to purſue it, when the ſeaſon of the yeare (as being on the edge of harveſt) and the enemies affright, ſeemed to invite him againe to plant

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the banished *Vlster* Gentlemen in their countrey: The countenance and ſupport from time to time given *Magawly*, in keeping the Caſtle of *Athlone*; notwithſtanding that the ſaid *Magawly* & his adherents were proclaymed Traytors by the Aſſembly: His knowne diſobedience (vpon many occaſions) to the Acts & Orders of the *Aſſembly* and *Councell*. Add to this, that maſter-piece of miſchiefe, his deſigne to ſurprize and plunder *this Citie of Kilkenny*, ſitting the laſt Aſſembly; and to ſeize vpon the perſons of thoſe, who were averſe to his wayes, and watchfull over his ptoceedings. Add further, the publike burning of our letters ſent to him, and the Officers of the *Vlſter* Armie, by his commaund, and in his preſence: The impriſonment and pillaging of Sir *Talentine Blake knight* and *Baronet*, and Sir *Richard Blake knight*, both members of the *Supreme Councell*, in their way to this Citie, being ſent for, to attend the great affaires of the kingdome: And laſtly conſider his manifeſt violation of the Oath of Aſſociation, in oppoſing of the ceſſation; and the height of mallice to which hee is grown, by declaring againſt the *Government* eſtabliſhed by the *Confederat Catholikes*, and withdrawing himſelf from our mutuall bond

of union. Wherefore (having in vaine attempted all other meanes to withdraw him from those mischievous practises, wherein he obstinatly persists) we doe not only hereby revoke and annull *his place* and *power of Generall*, & all other authoritie and preheminence, either in *Martiall* or *Civill affaires* conferred upon him by the *Confederat Catholickes*; and free all Officers and Souldiers, & all other persons, (whom it may concerne) from obedience to his orders and commands, but doe authorize & straightly charge all *Generals*, *Commaunders in chiefe* of Armies, *Mayor Officers*, *Collonels* of Horse and Foot, all *Sheriffes*, & all other *Officers* both *Civill* & *Martiall*, to prosecute in hostile manner him, & those few now in Armes with him, or that doe, or shall relieve him, or them, with victuall, Money, Armes, or Amunition: Not intending hereby to be so strict, as wee will not (upon their submission & heartie repentance) receive into our protection, such (as now in Armes adhering unto him) shall, in convenient time, withdraw themselves from him, & make their application unto us.

Mountgaret, *Iveagh*. *Dunboyn*.
Luke Dillon, *Rob. Lynch*. *Ri. Everard*,
Val. Blake. *Ri: Blake*. *Rich. Bellings*, *Ger. Fenell*. *Iohn VVelch*. *Rob. Devereux*. *Pa. Brian*.